(c) and (d) According to the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991 iron and steel industry has been removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector and also exempted from the purview of compulsory licencing, except for certain locational restrictions. A new steel plant under the name and style of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited is being set up by MMTC Ltd., a Central PSU, jointly with IPICOL, a Government of Orissa Undertaking and MECON, a Central PSU, which is likely to be commissioned in October, 1999. The Union Government at present have no other proposal for establishment of new/green-field steel plants in the country.

Introduction of Summer Special Train

5363. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce any summer special trains to Kerala from different directions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) A daily special between Chennai and Quilon and a biweekly special between Hyderabad and Cochin are running during this summer.

New Post Offices in Maharashtra

5364. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) the number of proposals/recommendations received from Maharashtra to open post offices/Branch post offices; and

(b) the names of the places in Maharashtra where the Government propose to open new post offices/Branch post offices during the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The number of proposals/recommendations received from Maharashtra to open Departmental Sub Post Offices and Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices is 18.

(b) It is proposed to open 3 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 35 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in Maharashtra during the Annual Plan, 1997-98 subject to norm based justification and availability of resources.

Reduction of Quota in A.P. Express

5365. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the reservation quota for 3 Tier for Nagpur in Andhra Pradesh Express has been reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-consider its decision to restore the Nagpur Quota in A.P. Express; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Due to provision of Secunderabad Terminal at Nagpur Reservation Office, the resevation quota available at Nagpur station in all classes by 2723 Andhra Pradesh Express has been merged with general quota available at Secunderabad PRS in order to give direct access to Nagpur Reservation Office with all the quotas on first-come-first-served basis.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Regional Language Films

5366. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any norms for telecasting Regional Language films on Doordarshan National Network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of award winning films telecast during each of the last five years; and

(d) the details of Assamese films telecast on DD network during the above period and the number of films pending clearance by DD and since when these are pending?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The eligibility criteria for telecast of Regional language films on the national network of Doordarshan is given in statement-I. The films are telecast alphabetically, language-wise by rotation. Preference is given to films which have won awards more recently.

(c) The details are given in statement-II.

(d) During the last five years, Doordarshan have telecast 20 Assamese feature films over national network and their year-wise details are given in statement-II.

At present three proposals of Assamese features films are pending with Doordarshan, and these films have tentatively been scheduled for telecast on 18/5/97, 27/7/97 and 5/10/97 respectively. All these proposals were received in Doordarshan in the year 1996.

Statement-I

Features films which fulfil any of the following criteria or have won any of the following national/state awards, as the case may be, only are considered for telecast on the national netowrk of Doordarshan;

(i) National award for the Best or second Best

features film of the year (in all languages combined)

(ii) Indira Gandhi Award for Best first film of a Director

(iii) Award for best films providing popular and wholesome entertainment

(iv) Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration

(v) Best Film on Family Welfare

(vi) Best film on other social issues such as prohibition, women and child welfare, anti-dowry, drug abuse etc.

(vii) President's Award of 'Rajat Kamal' for the Best Feature Film in an Indian language/Dialect

(viii) Films which have won the 'Certificate of Merit' in the National Film Festivals

(ix) Entry in the Indian Panorama and Mainstream Sections of any International Film Festival of India/ Filmotsav

(x) State Government Award for the Best Feature Film

(xi) State Government Award for Best Direction

(xii) Films which have won any two State Government awards (other than those mentioned above)

(xiii) Films which have celebrated Silver Jubilee (having run-continuously for 25 weeks) and carry 'U' certificate

(xiv) Films which have won an award in any International Film Festival held abroad

Statement-II

Details of regional language films telecast over national network of Doordarshan during the period from January, 1992 to 31st December, 1996

Language of films	Number of films telecast				
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Assamese	05	04	04	03	04
Bengali	25	08	08	05	04
Gujrati	04	04	04	03	05
Kannada	06	05	05	04	04
Konkani	Nil	01	Nil	01	Nil
Malayalam	08	05	03	04	05
Manipuri	04	02	01	01	02
Marathi	05	05	03	04	03
Nepali	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Oriya	05	06	04	04	02
Punjabi	05	06	01	02	01
Tamil	07	06	06	03	05
Telugu	07	03	05	06	02

Opening of Letters

5367. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the newsitems captioned "Big Brother IB is reading your foreign mail every day" and "IB's postal police violate every rule in the book" appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated March 20,21 1997 respectively;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the matter has since been taken up by him with the Ministry of Home Affairs; and

(e) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Depending on need, the operations relating to interception of mail are conducted by the Postal Rersearch Centres (PRCs) for detecting Postal irregularities. The PRCs were first established during 1954-55 at some selected places with the concurrence of the Min. of Communication and the Min. of Home Affairs, as special cells of the Complaints Organisation of the DGP&T. The PRC operations are restricted to certain specific categories of mail in a few selected centres. The interception of mail is primarily in the interest of public safety and tranguility under the provisions of Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

A review of the PRC operations for the period 1992 to 1996 shows recovery of foreign currency worth approximately Rs. 58 lakhs and Indian currency amounting to Rs. 6,64,500/-; 13058 cases of seizure of pornographic/seditious material and several cases of recovery of narcotics.

Losses by IA

5368. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Pilots who left the services of Indian Airlines during the last three years upto January 31, 1997 and the number of them who rejoined it; and

(b) whether there still exists shortage of pilots in Indian Airlines and if so, the steps taken to fill the gap?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 58 pilots left the services of Indian Airlines during the last three years upto 31st January, 1997. Out of these, 13 pilots have since rejoined the airline.

(b) No, Sir.

Modernisation/Expansion of ITI

5369. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise and expand Indian Telephone Industries Ltd;